

breeding site, lies mid-way between Dungeness and St Leonard's, though in Suffolk very small areas of sand, especially those on the root plates of fallen trees, are usually more productive and exposed areas are rarely utilised. It would be greatly appreciated if CWP could be informed of any further discoveries of this species in Britain.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3QP and DAVID WALKER, Dungeness Bird Observatory, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NA.

Recent records of *Medon pociferus* (Peyron) (Col.: Staphylinidae) in Dorset

I first came across this beetle on a visit with my wife to Durdle Door in Dorset in March 1990. Several specimens were encountered by digging with hands in coarse shingle where it met with rock at the foot of the cliffs rising above the beach. On a second visit in August 1998 with my friend Tony (A.J.W.) Allen, the beetle was found in the same situation. On both occasions, the beetles were accompanied by examples of *Bembidion nigropiceum* (Marsham), one of the less common members of this carabid genus.

In Britain, *M. pociferus* is known mainly from coastal sites in the south of England where it occurs in shingle at or above high tide mark. As far as Dorset goes, I have a specimen collected by P. Harwood in March 1931 with a locality given simply as "Holworth". The O.S. map marks a village with this name in Dorset a short distance to the west of Durdle Door. The village is about two miles away from the sea but it is likely that Harwood labelled the specimen with the name of the nearest community to the sea at this point.— JOHN OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

Investigations into the feeding habits of Kampods (Diplura: Campodidae)

From the literature it is known that kampods are omnivorous yet little is known of the detail of their diet. From 1988 to 1990, inclusive, kampods were sampled in the Kragujevac region of Yugoslavia twice per moth by collecting soil samples in oak *Quercus* forest and in hilly meadows. At each sample station the soil temperature was recorded at 5 cms depth and a separate sample was taken for determination of moisture content. From the samples, 1556 individual kampods were isolated by use of a Tullgren-Berlese apparatus; these comprised four species, namely *Campodea (Dicampa) campestre* Ionescu (160 examples), *C. (D.) frenata* Silvestri (294 examples), *C. (D.) suenisoni* Tuxen (970 examples) and *Podocampa serbica* Karaman & Blesić (132 examples).

Only 898 of the collected kampods contained food in the analysed mid-section of their gut. This food was comprised of four principal types – detritus, soil fungi, algae and arthropod prey. The great majority (94%) contained detritus and this food was represented in samples throughout the year. Less than half this number (460) were feeding on soil fungi. Of this latter group, 337 contained fungal hyphae and 123 contained spores. Fungal species identified in the guts were *Chetonium* sp. and *Melanospora* sp. (both Phycmycetes).

Algae were present in only 0.4% of the examined guts and these only from the meadow samples. Both fungi and algae were represented in samples from both spring and autumn in the soil temperature range 8 - 15°C and the soil moisture range 2 - 4%. Arthropod food was represented in 15% of individuals and largely comprised other kamponds – both of the same and different species. Also represented were Acari, Diptera larvae and Protura. Arthropod food featured mostly during the summer when the soil temperature at 5 cms depth was higher, in the range 29 - 32°C and the moisture content was reduced (about 3%). The findings are analysed in table 1.

Table 1: Analysis of contents of mid-gut of kamponds from Kragujevac, 1998 - 1990.

Gut contents	Number of individuals
detritus	844
fungal hyphae	337
fungal spores	123
green algae	2
silaceous algae	2
Protura	15
Acari	32
Diptera larvae	23
other kamponds	66
All	1476

It is evident that the majority of sampled kamponds feed on detritus all year but when the soil is wet their diet also includes fungi – principally in spring and autumn. When the soil is drier, arthropod prey forms a more significant part of the diet.– BELA BLESIC, Faculty of Science, University of Kragujevac, 34000 Kragujevac, Yugoslavia.

An unusual habit of *Micropterix tunbergella* (Fabr.) (Lep.: Micropterigidae)

At about midday on 27 April 1998 I was visiting Homefield Wood nature reserve on the Chiltern Hills near Marlow in Buckinghamshire. Whilst there I examined the trunks of some smallish beech *Fagus* trees near the entrance to the reserve; my intention was to search for larvae of psychid moths. My attention was soon drawn to a small metallic microlepidopterous imago that I first took to be an eriocranid. However, I soon realised that this was *Micropterix tunbergella* and that, indeed, there were numerous examples of this species at rest on, and in flight around, these and other tree trunks to a height of two metres or so. The majority were to be found within a foot or so of ground level and all were in perfect condition indicating that they had not long emerged.